

## Middle School – Finding True North

Part 2

What do you think when you hear the words “middle school” or “junior high?” For many, those words conjure up a blend of joyful and awkward memories. When Kingsley staff hears “middle school,” we think of *amazing young people who are navigating this phase of life to the best of their ability.*

If you attended grades six through eight before the 1990s, your school may have been organized in a junior high format. While our name is Kingsley Junior High School, we proudly operate as a middle school. You may be wondering...so what is the difference? Read on!

Junior High School Traits	Middle School Traits
Emphasis on academic development	Emphasis on academic & social skill development
Teachers organized by departments	Teachers organized by teams
Fixed and rigid schedule	Flexible schedule
Learn concepts in separate disciplines	Learn concepts within and between disciplines
Subject centered	Student centered

In summary, middle schools focus on academic rigor, balanced with helping students grow wiser to create a positive learning community.



Not all those who wander are lost  
-JRR Tolkien

How does this apply to a middle school student?

With family & school support, middle schoolers are growing and finding their way.

## September & October Dates to Note

- **September 3:** No School, Happy Labor Day!
- **September 4, 10am:** Annual Fire Drill with the Town of Normal Fire Department
- **September 12:** Late Start for students
- **September 26:** Late Start for students
- **September 28:** Sign up through the KJHS website for Parent-Teacher Conferences beginning at 8am
- **October 1:** PTO meeting in the IMC at 7pm
- **October 8:** No School, Columbus Day
- **October 9:** No School, Teacher Inservice/Training Day
- **October 17:** Late Start for students
- **October 19:** Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences
- **October 22-25:** Book Fair in the IMC
- **October 26:** 6th grade Activity Night, 6-8pm



## School Hours & Autumn Weather

School hours are 8:45am-3:45pm. Because staff is available to supervise students beginning at 8:20am, our doors open at 8:20am. The day for staff ends at 4pm. Please pick your your Cavalier prior to 3:55pm.

Autumn is coming soon! Even with rain & cooler temperatures, we are not able to supervise students prior to 8:20am.

## Parent Teacher Organization

All are welcome at our next PTO meeting on October 1, at 7pm, in the IMC. Do you have skills that would qualify you to be a PTO Treasurer? If so, we need your help! Please come to the meeting or email [KJHSPTO@gmail.com](mailto:KJHSPTO@gmail.com).

## Boys & Girls Club

The Boys & Girls Club is a safe place for kids that is supervised by paid professionally trained staff who offer fun and engaging programs for Club members at an affordable price. The Clubs offer a wide variety of programs to meet the needs of various ages and interests, such as leadership development and volunteering opportunities, homework help, computers, games, sports, dance, swimming, photography, arts and crafts, discussion groups, college prep, youth employment, movie making and delinquency prevention.

Did you know that KJHS offers transportation after school to Boys & Girls Club? You do now! For more information - and to register your child - please visit [www.bgcbn.org](http://www.bgcbn.org) or contact the Club at (309) 829-3034.



**CodeDay** This program, presented locally by State Farm, is available to middle school students throughout Bloomington-Normal. You can find out more information [here](#).

## Drills - *Another name for practice*

In conjunction with the Town of Normal Police Department, we held our annual evacuation drill. We also held our annual fire drill in collaboration with The Town of Normal Fire Department. Both departments applauded Kingsley students for their positive conduct, and our staff for being well prepared. Way to go Cavs!

## Student IDs

Unit 5 School District, along with Unit 5 Technology, Transportation, and Food Service, is piloting the use of student IDs for services during the school day. This includes riding the bus, checking out items from the IMC, and purchasing food items.

If your child loses their ID, please encourage her/him to come to the main office so we may get them a new ID. While students adjust to this new program, IDs are replaced free of charge. In January, replacement of IDs will cost \$3.

## Athletic Participation - *Made easier for your convenience*

Athletic participation forms are now available electronically. Please visit the Kingsley athletics homepage and create a Registration for your student. <http://il.8to18.com/kingsleyjhs>

Follow us on Facebook @ [facebook.com/kingsleyjhs](https://www.facebook.com/kingsleyjhs)



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